

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A catheter assembly for placing within a body, the catheter assembly comprising:

a flexible hollow body having a length defined between a ~~top~~ pointed end and a bottom end wherein the ~~top~~ pointed end is closed and further wherein the flexible hollow body is a cylindrical tube having a diameter and further wherein the bottom end of the flexible body has a width greater than the diameter;

a locking mechanism located on the bottom end of the flexible body;

a first notch located on the flexible body at a distance from the ~~top~~ pointed end;

a second notch located on the flexible body at a distance from the bottom end; and

a cylindrical body having a length defined between a ~~first~~ pointed end and a ~~second~~ blunt end ~~wherein the first end is pointed and further wherein the second end is flat~~ wherein the cylindrical body is formed by a first ~~part~~ element and a second ~~part~~ element wherein the first ~~part~~ element has a length defined between the ~~first~~ pointed end and the ~~second~~ blunt end wherein the first ~~part~~ element has a uniform width between the ~~first~~ pointed end and the ~~second~~ blunt end and further wherein the ~~second part~~ first element is cross-shaped ~~forms a cross at a distance from the second end~~ wherein the first ~~part~~ element is removably attached to the second

~~part element~~ and further wherein the ~~top~~ pointed end of the flexible hollow body is removably attached to the ~~second part~~ first element of the cylindrical body wherein the first notch of the flexible hollow body secures to the pointed end of the first element.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The catheter assembly of Claim 1 further comprising:

a locking mechanism located at the ~~flat~~ blunt end of the cylindrical body wherein the first ~~part element~~ and the ~~removable~~ second ~~part element~~ are locked together.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The catheter assembly of Claim 1 further comprising:

a cylindrical portion of the cylindrical body wherein the pointed end of the cylindrical body gradually tapers to the cylindrical portion.

Claim 4 (previously amended): The catheter assembly of Claim 1 wherein the cylindrical body has sufficient structural strength to penetrate through skin and into a subcutaneous layer of a body.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The catheter assembly of Claim 1 further comprising:

a recessed portion along the length of the first ~~part element~~;
and

a protruding element defined in shape by a right angle located along the recessed portion of the first ~~part element~~.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The catheter assembly of Claim ~~1~~ 5 further comprising:

a protrusion along the length of the ~~removable~~ second ~~part~~ element of the cylindrical body wherein the recessed portion along the length of the first ~~part~~ element ~~may readily accept~~ receives the protrusion along the length of the ~~removable~~ second ~~part~~ element.

Claim 7 (previously amended): A catheter assembly for placing within a body, the catheter assembly comprising:

a flexible hollow body defining a length between a top end and a bottom end wherein the top end is closed and wherein the top end tapers to a cylindrical tube;

a diameter defined by the cylindrical tube;

a width defined by the bottom end of the flexible body wherein the width is greater than the diameter;

a locking mechanism located on the bottom end of the flexible body;

a first notch located a distance from a point at which the top end meets the cylindrical tube;

a second notch located a distance from the bottom end;

a cylinder having a length defined between a pointed end and a second end wherein the top end of the flexible hollow body is removably attached to the pointed end of the cylinder;

a first hole located a distance from the pointed end of the

cylinder;

a leg attached to the bottom end of the cylinder;

a second hole located on the leg of the cylinder; and

a thread connected to the cylinder from the second hole to the first hole.

Claim 8 (previously amended): The catheter assembly of Claim 7 further comprising:

a groove cut into the cylinder having a length defined between the first hole and the pointed end.

Claim 9 (previously amended): The catheter assembly of Claim 7 further comprising:

a locking mechanism located on the leg of the cylindrical body.

Claim 10 (previously amended): The catheter assembly of Claim 7 further comprising:

a cylindrical portion wherein the pointed end of the cylinder gradually tapers to the cylindrical portion.

Claim 11 (previously amended): The catheter assembly of Claim 7 wherein the cylinder has sufficient structural strength to penetrate through skin and into a subcutaneous layer of a body.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A catheter for infusing a local anesthetic into tissue located under skin of a patient, the catheter comprising:

a flexible hollow body having a length defined between a

pointed end and a bottom end wherein the pointed end is closed wherein the flexible hollow body is a cylindrical tube having a diameter wherein the bottom end of the flexible hollow body has a width greater than the diameter and further wherein the flexible hollow body has a plurality of holes defining passageways to deliver the local aesthetic to the tissue of the patient wherein the passageways extend from an interior of the flexible hollow body to an exterior of the flexible hollow body ~~from inside of the flexible hollow body to points exterior to the flexible hollow body;~~

a locking mechanism located on the bottom end of the flexible body; and

a notch located on the flexible hollow body at a distance between the pointed end and the plurality of holes wherein the notch is pulled inward with respect to the skin of the patient to place the flexible hollow body in the tissue of the patient and further wherein the pointed end and the bottom end of the flexible hollow body extend outward with respect to the skin of the patient ~~and further wherein the notch is impermeable.~~

Claim 13 (original): The catheter of Claim 12 wherein the flexible hollow body is constructed of a porous material.

Claim 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (previously amended): A method for introducing a catheter into a body of a patient wherein the body includes skin and a

subcutaneous layer, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a flexible hollow body defining a length between a top end and a bottom end and having a notch located a distance from the top end;

providing a second notch located a distance from the bottom end;

providing a first part having a length defined between a pointed end and a flat end;

providing a second part having a length defined between the pointed end and the flat end wherein the first part and the second part define a cylindrical body and further wherein the second part is removable;

providing a locking mechanism located at the flat end of the cylindrical body wherein the first part and the second part are locked together;

piercing the skin and the subcutaneous layer of the body with the pointed end of the cylindrical body;

pushing the cylindrical body through the subcutaneous layer wherein the cylindrical body is exposed outside an exit site of the body;

removing the second part of the cylindrical body;

attaching the notch of the flexible hollow body to the first part of the cylindrical body;

pulling the first part of the cylindrical body and the

flexible hollow body into the subcutaneous layer and the entry site; and

removing the first part of the cylindrical body from the flexible hollow body and pulling the flexible hollow body into the subcutaneous layer.

Claim 16 (previously amended): The method of Claim 15 further comprising the step of:

preventing the flexible hollow body from slipping.

Claim 17 (previously amended): The method of Claim 15 further comprising the step of:

suturing the flexible hollow body to the skin of the body.

Claim 18 (previously amended): The method of Claim 15 further comprising the step of:

attaching the flexible hollow body to the first part of the cylindrical body by placing the top end of the flexible hollow body on the first part of the cylindrical body.

Claim 19 (previously amended): The method of Claim 15 further comprising the step of:

securing the flexible hollow body to the first part of the cylindrical body with a thread.

Claim 20 (previously amended): The method of Claim 15 further comprising the step of:

securing the flexible hollow body to the first part of the cylindrical body by fitting the flexible hollow body to a notch on

the first part of the cylindrical body.

Claim 21 (previously amended): The catheter assembly of Claim 1 wherein the flexible hollow body is constructed of a porous material.

Claim 22 (previously amended): The catheter assembly of Claim 1 wherein the flexible hollow body has a plurality of holes.

Claim 23 (previously amended): The catheter assembly of Claim 7 wherein the flexible hollow body is constructed of a porous material.

Claim 24 (previously amended): The catheter assembly of Claim 7 wherein the flexible hollow body has a plurality of holes.

Claim 25 (previously amended): The method of Claim 15 wherein the flexible hollow body is constructed of a porous material.

Claim 26 (previously amended): The method of Claim 15 wherein the flexible hollow body has a plurality of holes.